

UNFS UPDATE



Upper North Farming Systems Newsletter

June 2014

Profitability / Managing Risk Workshop - Morchard

Barry Mudge

When - Thursday, June 19

Where - 2PM - Joe Koch's Property - Breezy Hill, Booleroo Centre for in-field discussions (15km north east Booleroo travel 7km along Booleroo / Morchard road turn hard right along Lyall Rooches Road and travel 7km. Breezy Hill driveway on the left)
- 3PM - Morchard Hall for the workshop

Presenters - Barry Mudge and Michael Wurst

This workshop will summarise the Upper North Profit/Risk Project and present the latest finding from the analysis of profitability and risk of lower rainfall mixed farming systems in the area. The intention is to challenge our current farming system for better longer term profitability and sustainability. Items to be discussed:

- Profitability and risk of cropping vs livestock and implications for enterprise mix - Should we move more towards grazing?
- Key principles needed to improve profitability of our mixed farming system - What should we be focussing on?
- Discussion on the profit/risk aspects of key agronomic decisions such as in-season nitrogen and fungicide applications
- Use of satellite imagery to identify low producing zones and relevant management responses

BBQ tea to be served on completion, with drinks supplied.

Queries and RSVP's to Barry Mudge 0417826790. RSVP's for catering purposes appreciated but not essential.

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Canola Seeding Demonstration - Showing results already. Photo: Joe Koch



Seed to Store - The Story of Australian Grain is an exciting new video clip competition which will run complimentary to the Royal Adelaide Show's 2014 Competitions.

Simply produce a one minute video showcasing the journey of grains, legumes, oilseeds and pulses from being seed in the ground to food for people and livestock.

Concepts you might like to consider include best practice science, innovation, farming and food production in South Australia - essentially the journey of grain from the paddock to our plate. <http://eepurl.com/Vu3Fn>

Create an entertaining one minute YouTube clip profiling the South Australian grains industry to **WIN \$1000 CASH** and feature on the Coke Stage at the 2014 Royal Adelaide Show.

To Much Feed Spoils Stubble Grazing Trial

Mary-Anne Young

Plans to look at the effects of rotational vs set stocking grazing on stubbles has been somewhat stymied by the early rain but I'm not complaining.

On Don Bottrall's place, a wheat stubble paddock has been subdivided into 2, with half a mob of sheep being kept on one half for the duration of the grazing period, and the other half being subdivided into 3 paddocks which will be grazed in turn for about 5 days each. The sheep have just gone in so really we are looking at a grazing / pasture cover trial this year but all set to look at what happens to stubble cover after harvest.

Jim Higgins has put up his hand to host the second site at his Willowie block. Barley has been sown on some of this so again there will be an opportunity to look at the effects of rotational grazing vs set stocking on stubble cover. We did think about looking at grazing management on cover in a pasture paddock but Jim's sheep can't keep up with the feed at the moment so we probably won't be able to detect changes in cover.

One of the things we are keen to look at is a "birds-eye" view of the paddocks to see if we can pick up stock tracks and uneven cover so Joe Koch has done a flyover with a drone to get some aerial photos. It will be interesting to see if this can be a valid method of assessing surface cover in paddocks.



Joe preparing for take off... Photo by Mary-Anne Young

Farm Gate Meetings - Perennial Pasture Management Systems

Farm Gate Meeting – Orroroo

Visit the Weckert property 9 km north-east of Orroroo to see the amazing grass growth and increased cover since implementation of rotational grazing 2 years ago. Meet Andrew out the front of Orroroo Council for a pastie lunch on the go at 12.30, 27th June followed by a visit to his property, returning to Orroroo by 2.30pm.

Farm Gate Meeting – Peterborough

Visit the Ludgate property 'Gumbowie' 8 km south-east of Peterborough to see how Mark has controlled Onion weed in his old cropping country. Meet Mark at the Peterborough Info Centre, near Bob the Railway dog at 3.30pm, 27th June to visit the Onion weed control paddocks, returning to Peterborough by 5.00pm.

This project is supported by Upper North Farming Systems, through funding from the Australian Government and CSIRO, EP NRM and Rural Solutions SA. Further details from Michael Wurst 0418 803 685



Mark Ludgate's property prior to any onion weed control (Nov 2012). Photo; Jodie Reseigh

Onion Weed Control Trial - Booleroo Centre



Replicated plot trial of Onion Weed Chemical Control Options. Photo; Joe Koch

The 2014 Onion Weed Control Trial has had both applications now applied and the first counts undertaken to rate the 18 different chemical treatments.

Results of this trial will be presented at the 2014 UNFS Annual Field Day. This project is supported by Upper North Farming Systems, through funding from Natural Resources Northern and Yorke.

2013 UNFS Annual Trial Results

The 2013 Annual Trial Results book was distributed to all members by the 20th of May. If you have not received a copy please contact us as your address may be wrong in our system.

Agronomy Action

Matt McCallum and Ruth Sommerville

Keep an eye out for the following issues affecting crops throughout our district;

- Monitor newly emerging crops, and protect against mice, snails and insect pests if required. Large numbers of Lucerne Flea, Earth Mites and Aphids have been causing significant damage to many crops (cereals, canola and legumes) through out the Mid and Upper North and Yorke Peninsula. Be aware that there is resistance in many aphid species and a number of different species causing issues...not all aphids are the same. Also be aware that some insecticides require warm weather to be effective. Treating insects in Winter is different to treating them in Spring.
- Look for disease in 3-5 leaf crops, early fungicide maybe required. Warm/wet weather has promoted the incidence of yellow leaf spot in wheat, net form and spot form of net blotch in barley, and Cercospora in beans so far this year. Cooler weather may slow down the development of these diseases a little, but early treatment will be required in many paddocks. Wheat on wheat, barley on barley, and early sown beans are likely to need some urgent attention, especially in the more milder climates of Yorke Peninsula. Often early fungicides are put in with broadleaf sprays for wheat and barley, but waiting for this timing may lead to significant yield losses in many cases.
- Grass control in canola. Early ryegrass control in canola is important. Hitting it early and hitting it hard is the best strategy. Once canola crops have reached the 2 leaf stage, they can be sprayed with a number of on label mixes.
- Post sowing N applications. A number of growers have begun applying N to crops post establishment. Make sure to consider the effect of N on biomass production and crop potential. The first Yield Prophet reports will be out shortly to assist with this decision making.

Eastern Low Rainfall Zone Bus Tour

Monday the 21st of July to

Friday the 25th of July

UNFS was successful in obtaining a grant from GRDC to travel to Mildura and Condobolin to visit the Mallee Sustainable Farming and Central West Farming Systems Groups, tour their trial sites and meet with their members.

All travel costs are covered by the grant, however a small contribution for food will be required.

Expressions of Interest to Ruth Sommerville or Joe Koch ASAP. Places filling fast.

Event Calendar

19th June - Profitability and Risk Management Workshop - Booleroo Centre/
Morchard

27th June - Farm Gate Meetings - Peterborough and Orroroo

21st - 25th July - Eastern Low Rainfall Zone Bus Tour

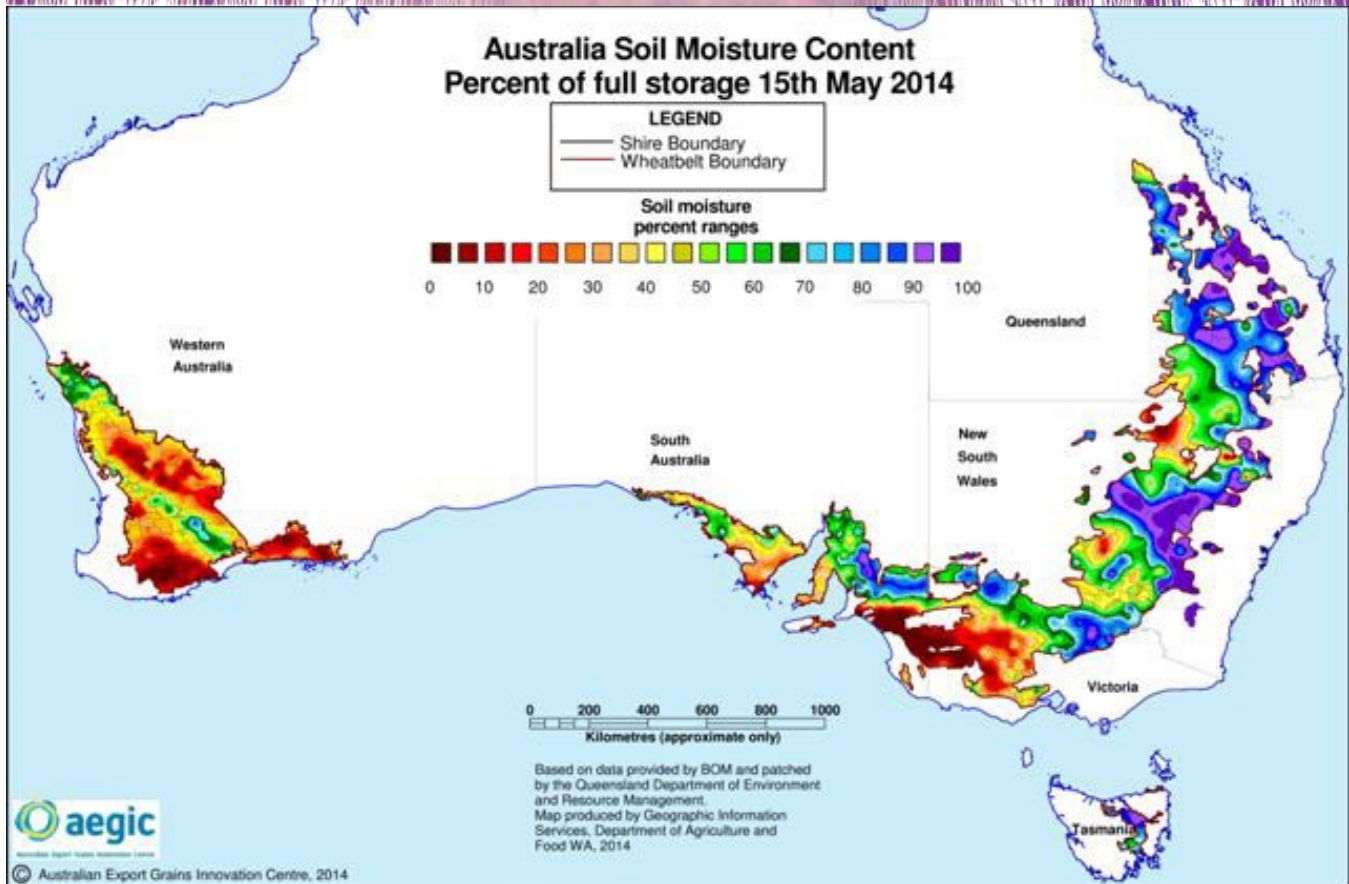
7th August - UNFS 2014 Annual Field Day - Booleroo Centre

11th September - UNFS Spring Crop Walk - Booleroo Centre

Lambex 2014

Be Part of the
Excitement!

JULY 9 - 11
ADELAIDE SHOWGROUNDS



Left: John Deere Soil Moisture Probe being demonstrated and incorporated into our Variable Rate Nitrogen Trial North of Booleroo Centre. Provided by Pringles Crouch Ag+. Photo; Jess Koch

Right: Soil Sampling for the establishment of a Yield Prophet Site at the Variable Rate N Trial Site north of Booleroo Centre. Photo by Joe Koch

Australian Grains Industry Conference Young Producers Grant

GPSA is offering two young grain producers an opportunity to attend the Australian Grains Industry Conference in Melbourne on July 28 and 29.

The two scholarships are valued at \$2500 each and entries close on Tuesday, June 17, at 5pm.

AGIC is hosted by Grain Trade Australia and is the premier, industry-hosted conference for grain market participants and service providers.

The sponsorship includes the conference registration, return airfares, travel and accommodation – all the recipients have to pay for is meals not included at the conference and travel to and from their nearest airport.

GPSA is offering the scholarships to encourage participation of young people in the grains industry and help build their skills while gaining a broader perspective of the industry's key players.

Full entry details are available at
www.grainproducerssa.com.au



Yield Prophet in 2014

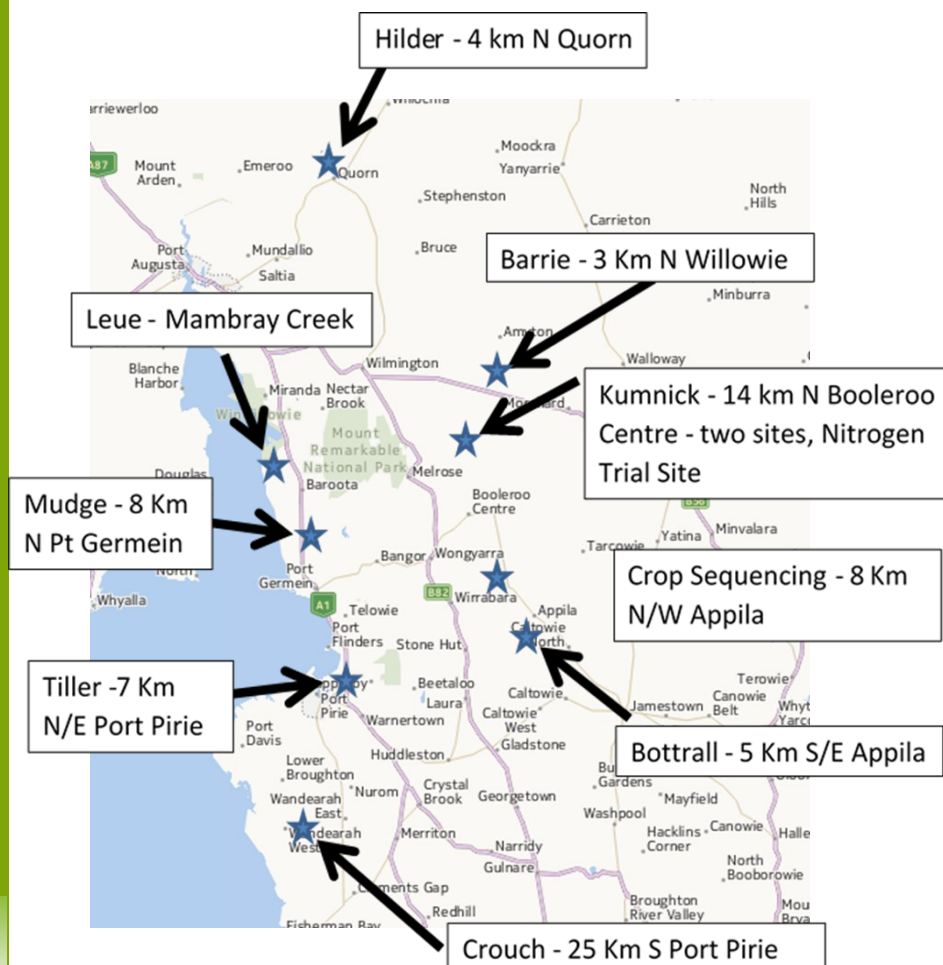
Thanks to on-going sponsorship from Sturt Grain, Yield Prophet will again be running across the Upper North in 2014.



A total of 10 sites have been selected with deep soil sampling undertaken at the start of May. Soil has been analysed for moisture content and nitrogen along with other parameters to enable the appropriate soil to be selected for the Yield Prophet program.

Given the excellent start across the district, water limited yield potential is expected to be high. Yield Prophet will give an indication of this potential and will again be updated regularly throughout the season and results sent to UNFS members by e-mail. First outputs are expected by early June.

Any queries, please contact Barry Mudge on 0417 826790 or at theoaks5@bigpond.com





EPARF
Eyre Peninsula
Agricultural Research Foundation Inc.

Organised Tour

If there is sufficient interest UNFS could organise a bus to attend this day at a cost to participants. Contact us if this interests you.

Looking Over The Fence

Putting the lid on herbicide resistance

EPARF are hosting a Members Day at Minnipa Ag Centre on 16 July 2014 titled "Putting the lid on herbicide resistance" with a good line-up of topics and speakers. UNFS has been invited to attend.

TOPIC 1 - Dr Peter Boutsalis and Andy Bates - 20 mins - The Current State of Weed Resistance On EP

TOPIC 2 - Dr Chris Preston, 35-40mins - "Resistance 101". The basic science of herbicide resistance

- Population dynamics/numbers game
- Types of resistance - metabolic and target site and why knowing the difference is important
- How to detect and prevent a problem

TOPIC 3 - EP Focus - EP's four most important weed issues. Potential new/emerging issues. The next challenge/threat. What things might look like if we do not change our weed management techniques -

- Barley Grass - Ben Fleet (Uni of Adelaide) - 15 mins
- Brome Grass - Sam Kleeman (Uni of Adelaide) - 15 mins
- Ryegrass - Chris Preston (Uni of Adelaide) - 15 mins
- Radish - Peter Newman (AHRI WA)- 10 mins

TOPIC 4 - Peter Newman (AHRI WA) - 60 Mins Focus on non-chemical control and weed seed bank management techniques

- Advantages and disadvantages of each useful technique (eg chaff cart, windrow burn, seed destructor, row spacing, competition, full paddock burn, cultivation)
- How useful are these techniques in reducing the risk of resistance developing?
- How useful are they if you already have a full blown resistance problem or massive weed seed bank to deal with?

TOPIC 5 - All speakers plus a couple of farmers - forum: Practical Solutions for preserving "cheap" low rainfall farming systems - 40 mins

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Grower-driven Advocacy for a Profitable Grains Industry

Garry Hansen, Chairman, GPSA. Excerpt from Grain Producers SA eNews June 2014

Disclaimer: UNFS does not have any relationship with GPSA or advocate its activities or statements

The past three months have been incredibly exciting for Grain Producers SA. Our team [GPSA] now includes the board, chief executive Darren Arney, grains policy officer Tim Burrow, cross-commodity policy officer Trudy Huczko, and business manager Belinda Ryan. We [GPSA] have been hard at work on a number of priority issues for grain growers. We always value producers' feedback and we've received plenty of it in our annual Harvest Review Questionnaire.

Survey Results

Nearly 200 grain producers replied to GPSA's questionnaire, which was aimed at gathering feedback on harvest and what can be improved for the coming year. Growers who replied had delivered to more than 400 individual receival centres across the State, including 87 percent to Viterra sites, 7pc to GrainFlow and 6pc to other sites.

Growers were asked to rank the sites they delivered to on a scale of 1 to 10 for performance on:

- Available segregations.
- Length of turnaround time.
- Suitability of opening hours.
- Number of buyers from the site.
- Communication – to growers and your ability to communicate with storage and handlers.
- Classification consistency.
- Staffing expertise.
- Ease of access.

This criteria received averaged scores in the high sixes and low sevens indicating that producers' views of the service they are receiving is, to use some old school talk, a solid B – there is still plenty of room for improvement to move it up to an A-grade standard.

These receivals issues are on our radar. We want to see investment in transport infrastructure and freight routes and third-party access to ports for grain exports and are in continual contact with stakeholders to get movement on these issues.

Membership

A huge thank you to the growers who took the time to respond. Your input is vital to ensure GPSA is an effective advocacy body for you.

However, only 60 percent of those who responded to the survey were GPSA members. If you still are not a member, or you aren't sure, please call the office (1300 734 884) and we will send you the form. Alternatively, jump on our website and sign up online.

Grain producers need a professional, organised and well-funded advocacy group. We have that now in GPSA and we need your membership so we can keep you informed on issues that may affect you and your business and advise how your levy money is being spent.

Membership is free to all SA grain producers who have contributed 20 cents per tonne to the PIFS Grain Fund. Growers must be a member to vote on who represents them, or to nominate a director, at our upcoming AGM on Thursday, September 11.





Event Details

12 June 2014. Coopers Alehouse, 11 Heritage Drive, Wallaroo, SA. www.daff.gov.au/abares/regional

Registration Fees

Full conference rate \$110p/p. Student \$55p/ (All costs include GST. Proof of Student Status required)

Speaker Highlights

David Carew, Chief Strategy Officer, Alternative Energy Investments

Sundrop: the business of climate change: David and his AEI colleagues are responsible for Sundrop Farms' business development activities and oversees the company's expansion internationally along with strategic partners and capital providers. David has over 25 years of experience across international project development, debt and equity capital raisings in infrastructure and private equity funds management.

Presentation - David's presentation covers food security in arid climates and outlines horticultural opportunities using thermal energy and fresh water.

Pauline Mooney, Executive Director, South Australian Research and Development Institute

Supply chain savings, safety and storage: As Executive Director, Pauline oversees highly skilled scientists, technicians and post-graduate students, located at 14 state-of-the-art research facilities throughout the state. SARDI focuses on innovative, cost-effective technologies to enhance the food, marine, bioscience and ecosystem industries in South Australia. Pauline is a member of Australian Institute of Company Directors and board member of Australian Grain Technologies, CRC for High Integrity Australian Pork and Australian Seafood CRC. She also chairs the AW Howard Memorial Trust.

Presentation - Pauline will be discussing food waste along the supply chain and its impacts on the Australian environment and economic context.

Andrew Inglis AM, Chairman, Future Farm Industries CRC

Profitable perennials for Australian landscapes: Andrew owns a grain and beef farm located near Crystal Brook. He is the current Chairman of Future Farm Industries CRC, and presiding Member of the Natural Resource Management Council of South Australia. In 2000 Andrew received an AM for his services to biosecurity and agriculture. He was South Australian Farmer of the Year in 1996, was awarded a Centenary Medal in 2003 and most recently the Farrer Memorial Medal in 2013.

Presentation - The CRC has just completed seven years of research into incorporating more perennial plants into farming systems across southern Australia. Andrew's presentation describes the practical implications of Future Farm Industries research, and how these economic and environmental benefits will be realised by adopting farming systems better suited to a changing climate.

Upper North Farming Systems

Contact List

Chairman

Joe Koch

Booleroo Centre

kochy260@hotmail.com

0428 672 161

Vice Chairman

Tony Jarvis (Booleroo/Pekina)

Booleroo Centre

jarvjane@active8.net.au

0427 586 035

Committee Members

Matt McCallum (Booleroo/Willowie)

matthewmcag@bigpond.com

0438 895 167

Ian Ellery (Morchard)

elleryprops@hotmail.com

0400 272 206

Todd Orrock (Booleroo/Murraytown)

tango001@bigpond.com

0428 672 223

Neil Sleep (Peterborough)

n.a.sleep@gmail.com

0427 512 410

Don Bottral (Appila)

donbot@active8.net.au

0427 635 002

Jim Kuerschner (Orroroo/Black Rock)

jimkuerschner@bigpond.com

0427 516 038

Matt Foulis (Willowie/Wilmington)

matt@northernag.com.au

0428 515 489

Ben Carn (Quorn)

carnomi@bigpond.com

0428 486 438

Barry Mudge (Nelshaby)

theoaks5@bigpond.com

0417 826 790



Contact Us

Email us at:
unfs@outlook.com

**Upper North Farming
Systems**

PO Box 323

Jamestown, SA, 5491

Visit us on the web at:
[www.facebook.com/
pages/Upper-North-
Farming-
Sys-
tems/342964929066490](http://www.facebook.com/pages/Upper-North-Farming-Sys-tems/342964929066490)

Project Officer and Secretary

Ruth Sommerville

Rufous and Co

PO Box 16, Spalding 5454

rufousandco@yahoo.com.au

M: 0401 042 223

Treasurer

Samantha Quinn

PO Box 57, Hallett 5419

coolangatta25@bigpond.com

M: 0417 868 728

Project Delivery Partner

Rural Solutions SA

PO Box 223, Jamestown 5491

P: 08 8664 1408

F: 08 8664 1405

Michael Wurst

Michael.Wurst@sa.gov.au

Mary-Anne Young

Mary-Anne.Young@sa.gov.au